

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for retrieving data for use in an interactive television application system in which non-on-demand media data is provided by a non-on-demand media data source and on-demand media data is provided by an on-demand media data source, wherein the non-on-demand and on-demand media data sources are separate, comprising:

retrieving the non-on-demand media data from the non-on-demand media data source;

automatically retrieving the on-demand media data from the on-demand media data source;

automatically caching the on-demand media data;

displaying the on-demand media data from cache in response to a user indication to access at least the on-demand media data; and

displaying the non-on-demand media data in response to a user indication to access at least the non-on-demand data.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-on-demand media data retrieved is television program listings data.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is genre data.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is interactive television application software data.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is video-on-demand listings data.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is audio-on-demand listings data.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is interactive video game listings data.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is weather data.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is sports statistics data.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is stock market data.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing metadata contemporaneously with non-on-demand media data.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing metadata contemporaneously with on-demand media data.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving on-demand media data from the on-demand media data source in response to a user selection of an on-demand media listing.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining if the on-demand media data is cached.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining if on-demand media data needs to be retrieved from the on-demand media data source.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining whether a connection exists between the interactive television application system and the on-demand media data source.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing a connection between the interactive television application system and the on-demand media data source.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving on-demand media data from multiple on-demand media data sources.

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising caching on-demand media data from multiple on-demand media data sources.

20. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying non-on-demand media data and on-demand media data concurrently.

21. Computer-readable media for retrieving data for use in an interactive television application system in which non-on-demand media data is provided by

a non-on-demand media data source and on-demand media data is provided by a on-demand media data source, wherein the on-demand and non-on-demand media data sources are separate, where the media is encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising:

retrieving the non-on-demand media data from the non-on-demand media data source;

automatically retrieving the on-demand media data from the on-demand media data source;

automatically caching the on-demand media data;

displaying the on-demand media data from cache in response to a user indication to access at least the on-demand media data; and

displaying the non-on-demand media data in response to a user indication to access at least the non-on-demand data.

22. The computer-readable media of claim 21, wherein the non-on-demand media data retrieved is television program listings data.

23. The computer-readable media of claim 21, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is genre data.

24. The computer-readable media of claim 21, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is interactive television application software data.

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25. The computer-readable media of claim 21, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is video-on-demand listings data.

26. The computer-readable media of claim 21, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is audio-on-demand listings data.

27. The computer-readable media of claim 21, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is interactive video game listings data.

28. The computer-readable media of claim 21, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is weather data.

29. The computer-readable media of claim 21, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is sports statistics data.

30. The computer-readable media of claim 21, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is stock market data.

31. The computer-readable media of claim 21, further comprising providing metadata contemporaneously with the non-on-demand media data.

32. The computer-readable media of claim 21, further comprising providing metadata contemporaneously with the on-demand media data.

33. The computer-readable media of claim 21, further comprising retrieving on-demand media data from the on-demand media data source in response to a user selection of an on-demand media listing.

34. The computer-readable media of claim 21, further comprising determining if the on-demand media data is cached.

35. The computer-readable media of claim 21, further comprising determining if on-demand media data needs to be retrieved from the on-demand media data source.

36. The computer-readable media of claim 21, further comprising determining whether a connection exists between the interactive television application system and the on-demand media data source.

37. The computer-readable media of claim 21, further comprising establishing a connection between the interactive television application system and the on-demand media data source.

38. The computer-readable media of claim 21, further comprising retrieving on-demand media data from multiple on-demand media data sources.

39. The computer-readable media of claim 21, further comprising caching on-demand media data from multiple on-demand media data sources.

40. The computer-readable media of claim 21, further comprising displaying non-on-demand media data and on-demand media data concurrently.

41. A system for retrieving data for use in an interactive television application system in which non-on-demand media data is provided by a non-on-demand media data source and on-demand media data is provided by a on-demand media data source, wherein the on-demand and the non-on-demand media data sources are separate, comprising:

a means for retrieving the non-on-demand media data from the non-on-demand media data source;

a means for automatically retrieving the on-demand media data from the on-demand media data source;

a means for automatically caching the on-demand media data;

a means for displaying the on-demand media data from cache in response to a user indication to access at least the on-demand-media data; and

a means for displaying the non-on-demand media data in response to a user indication to access at least the non-on-demand data.

42. The system of claim 41, wherein the non-on-demand media data retrieved is television program listings data.

43. The system of claim 41, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is genre data.

44. The system of claim 41, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is interactive television application software data.

45. The system of claim 41, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is video-on-demand listings data.

46. The system of claim 41, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is audio-on-demand listings data.

47. The system of claim 41, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is interactive video game listings data.

48. The system of claim 41, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is weather data.

49. The system of claim 41, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is sports statistics data.

50. The system of claim 41, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is stock market data.

51. The system of claim 41, further comprising a means providing metadata contemporaneously with non-on-demand media data.

52. The system of claim 41, further comprising a means for providing metadata contemporaneously with on-demand media data.

53. The system of claim 41, further comprising a means for retrieving on-demand media data from the on-demand media data source in response to a user selection of an on-demand media listing.

54. The system of claim 41, further comprising a means for determining if the on-demand media data is cached.

55. The system of claim 41, further comprising a means for determining if on-demand media data needs to be retrieved from the on-demand media data source.

56. The system of claim 41, further comprising a means for determining whether a connection exists between the interactive television application system and the on-demand media data source.

57. The system of claim 41, further comprising a means for establishing a connection between the interactive television application system and the on-demand media data source.

58. The system of claim 41, further comprising a means for retrieving on-demand media data from multiple on-demand media data sources.

59. The system of claim 41, further comprising a means for caching on-demand media data from multiple on-demand media data sources.

60. The system of claim 41, further comprising a means for displaying non-on-demand media data and on-demand media data concurrently.

61. A system for retrieving data for use in an interactive television application system in which non-on-demand media data is provided by a non-on-demand media data source and on-demand media data is provided by an on-demand media data source, wherein the non-on-demand and on-demand media data sources are separate, comprising:

a communications device for communicating with the on-demand media data source and non-on-demand media data source;

cache memory;

a display device;

a user input device;

control circuitry programmed to:

direct the communications device to retrieve the non-on-demand media data from the non-on-demand media data source;

automatically direct the communications device to retrieve the on-demand media data from the on-demand media data source;

automatically cache the on-demand media data in the cache memory;

in response to receiving a user indication to access at least the on-demand media data from the user input device, direct the display device to display the on-demand media data cached in the cache memory; and

in response to receiving a user indication to access at least the non-on-demand media

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data from the user input device, direct the display device to display the non-on-demand media data.

62. The system of claim 61, wherein the non-on-demand media data retrieved is television program listings data.

63. The system of claim 61, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is genre data.

64. The system of claim 61, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is interactive television application software data.

65. The system of claim 61, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is video-on-demand listings data.

66. The system of claim 61, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is audio-on-demand listings data.

67. The system of claim 61, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is interactive video game listings data.

68. The system of claim 61, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is weather data.

69. The system of claim 61, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is sports statistics data.

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70. The system of claim 61, wherein the on-demand media data retrieved is stock market data.

71. The system of claim 61, wherein metadata is contemporaneously retrieved along with the non-on-demand media data.

72. The system of claim 61, wherein metadata is contemporaneously retrieved with the on-demand media data.

73. The system of claim 61, wherein the control circuitry is directed to determine if the on-demand media data is cached in the cache memory.

74. The system of claim 61, wherein the control circuitry is directed to determine if on-demand media data needs to be retrieved from the on-demand media data source.

75. The system of claim 61, wherein the control circuitry is directed to determine whether a connection exists between the communications device and the on-demand media data source.

76. The system of claim 61, wherein the control circuitry is directed to establish a connection between the communications device and the on-demand media data source.

77. The system of claim 61, wherein the control circuitry is directed to retrieve on-demand

media data from multiple on-demand media data sources using the communications device.

78. The system of claim 61, wherein the control circuitry is directed to cache on-demand media data from multiple on-demand media data sources in the cache memory.

79. The system of claim 61, wherein the control circuitry is directed to display non-on-demand media data and on-demand media data concurrently on the display device.